

OCA FILE 011

RECPT # \_\_\_\_\_

SECRET

27 March 1986

OCA: 86-0914

NOTE FOR: The Director

FROM: David Gries

SUBJECT: Congressional Strategy on Nicaragua; Admiral  
Poindexter's Request for Views

1. While debate continues in the Senate, we should examine circumstances that could stall a Senate-passed bill in the House.

-The House leadership could, but probably will not, attach the Senate bill to a veto candidate, such as a supplementary appropriations bill.

-The Senate bill could also be sent to languish in committee, but this too is unlikely.

-The Rules Committee could rule that the Senate bill can be amended in the House, leading to long debate and perhaps a useless bill.

2. On the other hand, Speaker O'Neil did promise his colleagues a 15 April vote on the Senate bill, and none of the above noted possibilities fully meets that commitment.

-Moreover, during a Wright-Michel exchange on the floor yesterday, Wright said the Senate bill should be attached to "a viable bill", not one headed for a veto.

3. If Wright is reflecting the Speaker's views, then the House will have an opportunity to vote again on a "clear" bill. This suggests that as soon as the Senate completes action, appropriate House members should be approached immediately, including by telephone, since most will be away from Washington.

-It is important to start this process of briefing and discussion immediately, rather than, as in the case of the first House vote on H. Res. 540, waiting until the week of the vote.



SECRET

SECRET

-The last week of March and the first week of April provide a window for the kind of early action that is needed.

-If the Administration waits until the House returns from recess on 8 April, it could be too late to pick up the 10 to 15 votes needed.


25X1

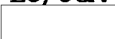


David D. Gries

25X1

Distribution:

Original - Addressee (delivered to  for DCI)

- 1 - DDCI
  - 1 - DDCI-Designate
  - 1 - EXDIR
  - 1 - ER
  - 1 - D/OCA Chrono
  - 1 - EO/OCA
  - 1 -  LA/DO
  - 1 - DD/House Affairs/OCA
  - 1 - ADD/Senate Affairs/OCA
  - 1 - DD/Legislation/OCA
  - 1 - OCA Subject
  - 1 - OCA Chrono
- D/OCA:DDG:mlg (27 March 1986)

25X1

SECRET